United Nations

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council unanimously authorizes the deployment of one batallion and 35 military observers from the United Nations Protection Force, along with 26 civilian police, on Macedonian side of that Republic's borders with Albania and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to monitor developments.

+ Meeting in Mogadishu between Secretary-General's Special Representative, Commander of Unified Task Force and United States Ambassador Oakley results in decision to establish liaison units at United Nations headquarters and Task Force's headquarters.

+ General Assembly asks Secretary-General to invite Member States to submit, not later than 30 June, written comments on possible review of membership of Council.

+ President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola asks for extension of mandate of United Nations Angola Verification Mission to eliminate, what he calls, "mistrust" felt by UNITA before elections runoff.

+ Secretary-General appoints Dante Caputo, former Foreign Minister of Argentina and President of 43rd session of General Assembly, as his Special Envoy for Haiti.

+ Moldova asks for United Nations observers to attend talks on withdrawal of Russian Federation's 14th Army from its territory and for United Nations mission to evaluate human rights situation in eastern part of country.

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By adopting unanimously resolution 795, the Security Council tonight authorized the Secretary-General to establish a presence of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the former Republic of Macedonia, as recommended by him in his report, and so to inform the authorities of Albania and those of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

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The Council also requested the Secretary-General to deploy immediately the military, civil affairs, and administrative personnel recommended in his report, and that he deploy the police monitors immediately upon receiving the consent of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to do so.

In his report to the Council of 9 December, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had recommended that one UNPROFOR batallion of up to 700 persons and 35 UNPROFOR military observers be deployed on the Macedonian side of that Republic's borders with Albania and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali said that the essentially preventive mandate of this Force should be to monitor and report any developments in the border area which could undermine confidence and stability in Macedonia or threaten its territory.

In his report, the Secretary-General had also recommended that a group of 26 United Nations civilian police (UNCIVPOL) be deployed in the border areas to monitor the Macedonian border police. The UNCIVPOL presence would assist in calming any inter-ethnic tensions arising from perceptions that the Macedonian police had harassed or abused Albanians, mainly in the context of illegal border crossings, said the Secretary-General. In addition, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali had recommended the deployment in Macedonia of a small group of civil affairs and administrative personnel.

Endorsing the findings of UNPROFOR Force Commander, Lieutenant-General Satish Nambiar, during a mission to Macedonia from 28 November to 3 December, the Secretary-General had said in his report that he shared the belief that a "small United Nations group deployment of this kind ... would help Macedonia and the two neighbouring countries concerned to make safe passage through a potentially turbulent and hazardous period".

The Secretary-General also recommended in his report that the "start-up costs" of new deployment would be met initially from the resources made available for UNPROFOR by the General Assembly at its current session.

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The Commander of the Unified Force in Somalia, General Johnston, Ambassador Robert Oakley of the United States and the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Ismat T. Kittani, met this morning in Mogadishu, a United Nations spokesman told correspondents today at Headquarters.

It was decided during the meeting, which was described by Mr. Kittani as "extremely good", that the Unified Task Force would establish a liaison unit at the headquarters of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) and that there would be representatives of UNOSOM at the Task Force's headquarters. Earlier today, General Johnston, Mr. Kittani and Ambassador Oakley had met with the Somali leaders, General Aideed and Ali Mahdi, for discussions on military and security matters.

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The General Assembly has asked the Secretary-General to invite Member States to submit, not later than 30 June, written comments on a possible review of the membership of the Council. It took that action by adopting a resolution this morning, without a vote, on the question of the equitable representation on, and increase in, the membership of the Security Council.

Recognizing the crucial role of the Council in maintaining international peace and security, the new international situation and the increase in the membership of the Organization, the Assembly has also asked the Secretary-General to report on the comments made by Member States on the subject.

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The President of Angola, Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, has asked the United Nations for an extension of the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) in order to eliminate, what he calls, "the mistrust" felt by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). The increased role of the United Nations was "desirable" to ensure the required conditions before the presidential elections runoff.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 9 December, President Dos Santos said UNITA's mistrust could "constitute a pretext" for its failure to participate in acts which were "important and indispensable for the functioning of Angola's institutions" and for the implementation of the peace accords.

He said the Angolan Government considered that the solution to the Angolan crisis was to be found in the full compliance by UNITA with the peace accords, including an acceptance of the cease-fire, demilitarization and disarmament of UNITA, participation of UNITA in the Angolan Armed Forces, and participation of the UNITA deputies in the elected National Assembly.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to appoint Dante Caputo, a former Foreign Minister of Argentina who served as President of the General Assembly at its forty-third session, as his Special Envoy for Haiti.

The Spokesman for the Secretary-General said today that Mr. Caputo would undertake the mission at the request of the General Assembly "to take the necessary measures in order to assist, in cooperation with the Organization of American States (OAS), in the solution of the Haitian crisis".

Mr. Caputo will assist the Secretary-General in the preparation of the report he has been requested to submit to the General Assembly by mid-February on the implementation of the resolution. Next week, prior to beginning his mission, he will come to New York for consultations.

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Moldova has reiterated its request for United Nations observers to attend the Moldovan-Russian talks on the withdrawal of the Russian Federation's 14th Army from Moldova and to dispatch a United Nations mission to evaluate the human rights situation in the eastern part of the country.

In a letter of 9 December addressed to the Secretary-General, the Foreign Minister of Moldova, Nicolae Tau, said the Russian Army was "an occupation force", and its presence in Moldova represented a "permanent source of conflict and a perpetual threat to its integrity and security". Document S/24931

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